

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----091723Z 098574 /42

O 091712Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3663

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 07632

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
PFOR. RH. UK
SUBJECT: FCO INSTRUCTIONS (AFRICAN POSTS) MAY 6

1. FCO HAS PROVIDED TEXTS OF MESSAGES TO AFRICAN PRESIDENTS RELATIVE TO STATE OF PLAY ON RHODESIA AND TO MESSAGES SENT MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE PRESIDENTS

1. SINCE I SAW YOU LAST MONTH MR. VANCE AND I HAVE BEEN GIVING A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT TO HOW TO CARRY FORWARD THE STRATEGY I OUTLINED TO YOU FOR ACHIEVING AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE, WITH MAJORITY RULE, IN 1978. I

DISCUSSED THE NEXT STEPS WITH MR. VANCE IN LONDON TODAY AND WE AGREED THAT MY SOUNDINGS LAST MONTH HAD SHOWN IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE EMBARKING ON DETAILED CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THESE WOULD RELATE TO THE NATURE OF A CONSTITUTION FOR AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE, AS WELL AS THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS' INCLUDING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER FROM MR. SMITH. ACCORDINGLY HE AND I HAVE AGREED TO ANNOUNCE EARLY NEXT WEEK THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULTATIVE GROUP WHICH WILL TRAVEL

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TO CENTRAL AFRICA IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE IN ORDER TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES AND TO CARRY FORWARD THESE CONSULTATIONS. THE BRITISH LEADER OF THE GROUP WILL BE MR. JOHN GRAHAM WHO WAS WITH ME WHEN WE MET LAST MONTH. THE US GOVERNMENT WILL NO DOUBT LET YOU KNOW THEIR NOMINEE TO THE GROUP. I HOPE THAT MR. GRAHAM WILL BE ABLE TO RELY ON YOU FOR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN HIS TASK. HE

AND HIS PARTY WILL BE FLYING IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO LUSAKA AND WILL BE READY TO TRAVEL FROM THERE TO MEET THE PARTIES CONCERNED WHERE EIER MAY BE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT. THIS WILL OF COURSE INVOLVE VISITS TO SALISBURY AND AT SOME STAGE I MAY THINK IT NECESSARY TO SET UP A LIAISON OFFICE THERE, BUT THAT IS NOT IN MY MIND AT THE MOMENT.

2. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE US AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS TO CARRY OUT THESE CONSULTATIONS JOINTLY. IF ANY OF THE PARTIES FEEL IT NECESSARY HOWEVER THE GROUP WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE THEM SEPARATELY SO LONG AS IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE US AND THE UK ARE WORKING TOGETHER THROUGHOUT.

3. IT IS MY INTENTION TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT AT ALL STAGES. WHEN MR. GRAHAM VISITS YOUR COUNTRY HE WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CONTACT. END TEXT

3. BEGIN TEXT: MESSAGE TO BISHOP MUZOREWA, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND REVEREND SITHOLE. FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

1. WHEN I SAW YOU LAST MONTH I TOLD YOU THAT I BELIEVED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, IF WE LOOKED FIRST AT THE FORM OF A CONSTITUTION FOR AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THAT, THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO

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O 091712Z MAY 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3664

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 07632

EXDIS

BRING IT INTO EFFECT, TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE FOR ZIMBABWE, WITH MAJORITY RULE, IN 1978. I GAVE NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS BUT I URGED UPON YOU THE ADVANTAGES OF THIS APPROACH WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY, I BELIEVED, BRING

YOU WHAT YOU ARE SEEKING, BUT DO SO MORE SPEEDILY AND WITH LESS HUMAN AND PHYSICAL LOSS THAN ANY OTHER WAY THAT I COULD SEE. I LISTENED TO YOUR REACTIONS AND I HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THEM SINCE THEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE US GOVERNMENT, WHOSE SUPPORT, AS I MADE CLEAR TO YOU, I REGARD AS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

2. I DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS AGAIN TODAY WITH MR. VANCE. WE HAVE AGREED THAT SETTING ASIDE FOR THE TIME BEING THE QUESTION OF A FORMAL CONFERENCE, WE SHOULD NOMINATE A CONSULTATIVE GROUP TO TRAVEL TO CENTRAL AFRICA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, IN ORDER TO MAKE CONTACT WITH YOU AND THE OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED, WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING, IF POSSIBLE, SOME COMMON GROUND ABOUT THE FORM OF A CONSTITUTION AND ABOUT THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE TRANSFER OF POWER. AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE EARLY NEXT WEEK, BUT I WANTED YOU TO KNOW WHAT WE HAD IN MIND IN ADVANCE. THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE ON THIS GROUP WILL BE MR. JOHN GRAHAM AND HE WILL BE GETTING IN TOUCH WITH YOU TO ARRANGE A MEETING AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME AND PLACE.

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3. IN THE COURSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS THE GROUP WILL NATURALLY BE VISITING SALISBURY. AT SOME STAGE IT MAY PROVE USEFUL FOR THEM TO ESTABLISH A LIAISON OFFICE THERE, BUT IT IS NOT IN MY MIND TO DO SO YET.

4. I HAVE STRESSED THAT I REGARD US SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT AS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN THIS VERY DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING. SOME, I KNOW, HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE DEGREE OF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN ANY CONSULTATIONS. I RESPECT THESE VIEWS AND IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN HEADS OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP SEPARATELY NEITHER MR. VANCE NOR I WOULD RAISE ANY OBJECTION. BUT YOU SHOULD BE UNDER NO MISAPPREHENSION THAT WE WILL IN FACT BE WORKING IN THE CLOSEST CONCERT WITH THE US GOVERNMENT. END TEXT

4. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED. SPIERS

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